

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 09916 01 OF 02 181650Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 076853

R 181602Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8642

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: BERGERON AND THE TUC

1. ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY GENERAL, SEIZED OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY MEETING IN HIS OFFICE (16 APRIL) WITH U.K. AND U.S. LABOR COUNSELORS TO TALK ABOUT TUC. HE MADE TWO REMARKS AND ONE APPEAL.

(A) HE CONTINUES TO REGRET TUC OPPOSITION TO THE COMMON MARKET, WHICH IN TRADE UNION TERMS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT HAS PREVENTED ETUC FROM BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION WITH A REALISTIC PROGRAM.

(B) "FRANKLY" LEN MURRAY, TUC SECRETARY GENERAL, HAS NOT IMPRESSED HIM VERY MUCH IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN WHICH JACK JONES, THE HEAD OF TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, SEEMS TO TAKE THE LEAD AND TO DETERMINE TUC ATTITUDES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 09916 01 OF 02 181650Z

(C) THE APPEAL CAME IN AN ALMOST PLAINTIVE TONE WHEN BERGERON TURNED TO U.K. LABOR COUNSELOR (BULPITT) AND SAID, "WHAT CAN WE POSSIBLY DO TO HELP TUC UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH TRADE UNION SITUATION?" HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE IS BAFFLED BY TUC INSISTENCE THAT LABOR UNITY SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY GOAL OF ALL FRENCH TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. HE ADDED THAT LABOR UNITY IN FRANCE TODAY CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING, NAMELY, COMMUNIST DOMINATION.

2. BERGERON RECALLED HOW WELL FO DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY TUC DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON BUT REMARKED THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS DID NOT IMPROVE TUC'S UNDERSTANDING OF FRENCH SITUATION. HE WOULD LIKE TO TRY ONCE AGAIN, HE SAID, BY INVITING A TUC DELEGATION TO PARIS. THE BEST TIME TO DO THAT OF COURSE WOULD BE AFTER 5 JUNE REFERENDUM, BUT ASKED BULPITT TO ADVISE INFORMALLY TUC AND TO REFLECT PERSONALLY ON AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT.

3. RECOGNIZING THAT LANGUAGE IS A PROBLEM, BERGERON ASKED BULPITT IF HE WOULD AGREE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE PROGRAM OF THE VISIT INCLUDING SERVING AS INTERPRETER. BULPITT AGREED.

4. WITH REGARD TO EAST-WEST TRADE UNION RELATIONS, BERGERON SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS TELLING HIM THAT TUC LEADERS ARE A GREAT DEAL MORE SUSPICIOUS OF THE SOVIETS THAN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN CONTACTS AND EXCHANGE VISITS WITH THEM WOULD SUGGEST. HE WENT ON TO SHAKE HIS HEAD IN APPARENT FRUSTRATION WHETHER TO RELY ON SUCH REPORTS OR ON HIS VISCERAL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 09916 02 OF 02 181647Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 076766

R 181602Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09916

REJECTION OF ANY CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS
BY TUC OR ANY OTHER WESTERN UNION.

5. COMMENT. WE HAVE THE FEELING THAT BERGERON OVER-
STATED, IF NOT OUTRIGHT MISREPRESENTED, TUC VIEWS
CONCERNING FO AND THE FRENCH LABOR SCENE. TUC
PROBABLY SHARES RESERVATIONS OF OTHER WE NATIONAL
CENTERS REGARDING FO'S INTRANSIGENCE IN OPPOSING ANY
CONTACTS AT THE CONFEDERATION LEVEL WITH CGT. THEY
FIND SUCH ATTITUDE A) UNREALISTIC SINCE IT UNDERMINES
TRADE UNION EFFECTIVENESS BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL; B) CONTRADICTION SINCE OF NECESSITY
THERE ARE CONTACTS BETWEEN FO AND CGT AT LOWER LEVELS;
AND PERHAPS C) COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN FIGHTING COMMUNISM
AS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CFDT-CGT UNITY OF ACTION
AGREEMENT HAS SHOWN.

6. NOT EVERYONE IN FO SHARES BERGERON'S FREEDOM FROM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 09916 02 OF 02 181647Z

DOUBT ABOUT THE CORRECTNESS OF HIS APPROACH. EVIDENCE
OF THIS CAN BE SEEN IN A RECENT STATEMENT MADE BY
ANTOINE LAVAL, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF FO INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, IN LABATT'S HOME SUGGESTING
THAT SHOULD THERE BE ANOTHER GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE
UNION CONFERENCE HE WILL ARGUE FOR FO PARTICIPATION.
HE ADDED THAT HE HAS COME AROUND TO REALIZING THAT
EXPOSURE OF SOVIET POLITICAL MOTIVES BEHIND SUCH
CONFERENCES CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF MADE INSIDE THE
CONFERENCE THAN IF SYMBOLICALLY COMMUNICATED BY
STAYING AWAY FROM IT.
STONE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS09916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750137-0022
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750438/aaaabizp.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BERGERON AND THE TUC
TAGS: ELAB, FR, ETUC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006